been laid on the Table of the Sabha on 11.12.87 and 13.5.88. The Government has not accepted the recommendation of the Commission for introduction of a composite running scale.

(c) and (d) Representations received from various teachers' organisations requesting for modifications in the pay-scales announced on 12.8.87 by the Government as also for clarifications in regard to implementation of the pay-scales, have been considered by the Government and such clarifications as were considered necessary have been issued on 3.11.87. However, no specific anomaly in regard to pay of teachers who have reached the maximum of the pay-scale has come to the notice of the Government.

Visit of the President of France to India

103. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether President of France visited India during February 1989;

(b) if so, what was the nature of talks held between the President of France and Indian leaders;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached; and

(d) if so, what is the nature thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In these talks the French President and Indian leaders extensively covered international as well as bilateral matters of interest.

(c) and (d) An Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation in biotechnology was signed under which the two countries will promote corporation in the field of bio-technology related to human health among their scientific and technical institutes, especially those dealing with the improvement of preventive vaccines against communicable diseases, diagnostics and other immunologicals and biologicals.

In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Council of Medical Research and French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Institute National de la Santo ot de la Recherche Medicale) was signed under which the two sides will cooperate in the field of research in bio-medical sciences.

Inquiry into the crash of Boeing 737 at Ahmedabad

104. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that attempts are being made to sabotage the enquiry into the crash of Indian Airlines Boeing 737 on October 19, 1988 at Ahmedabad;

(b) whether it is also a fact that certain facts have been played down or ignored for this purpose and other considerations given greater emphasis during the enquiry; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken by Government to ensure a fair enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. In fact the Court of Inquiry has already submitted its report to the Government.

Common Board for Air India and Indian Airlines

105. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA. Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for having a common Board for Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, what are the advantages of having such a Board;

(c) what are the views of experts in this regard; and

(d) what procedure has been adopted for obtaining the expert opinion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (d) The term of the present Boards of Directors of Air India and Indian Airlines is upto the 30th of June, 1989. There is at present no specific proposal under consideration of Government regarding a common Board for Air India and Indian Airlines.

Safety of air travellers

106. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after an accident of aircraft at Ahmedabad, the Foreign Tourist traffic by air travel has come down; and

(b) what measures Government have taken to eliminate the negligence on the part of both the ground engineering, checking staff and the pilots to a certain degree of safe travel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Suitable steps as required will be taken after receipt and examination of recommendations of the Court of Inquiry appointed to investigate into the accident.

Visit of Australian Prime Minister

107. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australian Prime Minister visited India recently;

(b) if so, the nature of discussions held with the visiting Prime Minister; and

(c) what is the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Australian Prime Minister visited India from February 9-12, 1989.

(b) The discussions covered bilateral, regional and international matters.

(c) India and Australia have signed Memoranda of Understanding on (i) Concessional Finance for Projects of Mutual Benefit; (ii) Railways; (iii) Telecommunications; and (iv) Meteorology. A firm foundation has been laid for enhancing the level of relations between our two countries.

Developing Hyderabad as International Airport

108. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any facilities are being added to Hyderabad-airport for facilitating the said airport to become International airport; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Hyderabad airport is already handling limited international flights. However, an Automatic Message Switching Sytem (AMSS) and Airport Surveillance Radar (ASR) are planned to be provided at Hyderabad airport. Besides, construction of a separate International Terminal Block at Hyderabad is planned during 1989-90.